Imported Beedies.

545. MR. A. ABDUL RAZAAK: Will the Hon'ble Minister for Excise be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government are aware that cheap labour mostly of women in the Madras Province is freely allowed to compete on favourable terms with the beedi packers of this country through the Government's policy in regard to imported beedies of levying a tax only on the tobacco weight of such beedies; and

(b) if so, do the Government at least now realise the necessity of imposing any additional levy on finished beedies sought to be imported into this country, or in the alternative reducing by 50 per cent the customs duty now levied on 'chukka' imported as such?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: *(a)* No.

(b) This question does not arise in view of the answer to part *(a)*.

MR. A. ABDUL RAZAAK: Hence any representations been made to Government on behalf of the beedi packers?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: No. so far as I am aware.

Damages caused by floods.

546. MR. N. V. CHACKO (*Kunnathunad III—General*): Will the Hon'ble Minister for land be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that almost every year heavy damages to paddy and other cultivations are caused by floods in the Taluks of Kunnathunad, Moovattupuzha and Parur and other places in Travancore;

(b) whether the Government will plan any means for abating the destructions thus caused?

HON'BLE MR. C. KESAVAN: *(a)* yes.

(b) yes.

Tuberculosis survey.

547. DR. M. O. CHERIYAN (*Devicolam General*): Will the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government has any information of the fact that lung tuberculosis is comparatively more prevalent in Perumpavoor and surroundings in Kunnathunad taluk; and

(*b*) if the answer to the above is in the negative, will the Government be kind enough to arrange a tuberculosis survey of the area?

HON'BLE MR. G. RAMACHANDRAN: *(a)* No.

(b) A general survey is under the consideration of Government.

Opening of a dispensary.

548. DR. M. O. CHERIYAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister for Medical be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any facility for medical aid for people working in the Cardamom cultivations of the Bison valley in Devicolam taluk;

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